



North Carolina General Assembly  
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID R. LEWIS  
53RD DISTRICT

July 25, 2007

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07-59

Mr. Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

I'm writing to you today to ask you to do everything you can to stop the proposed merger between XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio. This merger appears to be a government-sponsored corporate bailout and will hurt consumers and eliminate potential competition in the satellite radio market.

When the FCC first granted licenses to these companies in 1997, there was a specific prohibition against merging. While nothing has changed in the marketplace – XM and Sirius remain the only two providers of satellite radio – the companies claim to need this merger to stay afloat. Merging might help the companies in the short run, but they still have multi-year, multi-million dollar contracts to fulfill – having signed expensive personalities – and leaving their subscribers to pick up the bill.

Any economist will tell you that creating a monopoly will drive up costs. The facts are simple – once there is no choice of satellite radio providers, the monopoly can charge what it pleases. From what I have heard, the companies are not only planning to continue offering "basic" service, but will also offer more expensive packages that will most likely include many channels consumers had previously enjoyed with their original service at a lower price.

Finally, rural America may be hurt the most if this merger is allowed. Many rural Americans have few radio stations and are limited in what they can listen to on their radios. Satellite radio provides them with an economical way to get news, sports and music. We should not limit the options they currently have by allowing these two companies to merge.

I hope that you will agree that this merger needs to be rejected.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Lewis".

David R. Lewis

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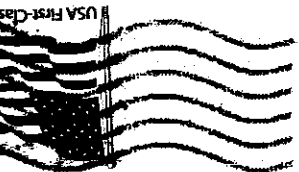
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Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
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